

REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 27th February 1892.

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URIYA PAPERS.

Nil.

ASSAM PAPERS.

Nil.

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of newspapers.			Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
BENGALI.						
Fortnightly.						
1	"Ahmadi"	...	...	Tangail, Mymensingh	600	28th January & 12th February 1892.
2	"Kaliyuga"	...	...	Calcutta	...	
3	"Kasipur Nivási"	...	...	Kasipur, Burrisal	280	
4	"Navamihir"	...	...	Ghatail, Mymensingh	500	
6	"Ulubaria Darpan"	...	...	Ulubaria	700	
Tri-monthly.						
6	"Hitakari"	...	...	Kushtia	800	
Weekly.						
7	"Bangavási"	...	...	Calcutta	20,000	20th February 1892.
8	"Banganivási"	...	...	Ditto	8,000	19th ditto.
9	"Burdwán Sanjivani"	...	...	Burdwan	335	16th ditto.
10	"Cháruvártá"	...	...	Sherepore, Mymensingh	400	15th ditto.
11	"Dacca Prakásh"	...	...	Dacca	2,200	21st ditto.
12	"Education Gazette"	...	...	Hooghly	825	19th ditto.
13	"Grámvási"	...	...	Ramkristopore, Howrah	1,000	22nd ditto.
14	"Hindu Ranjiká"	...	...	Boalia, Rajshahi	212	17th ditto.
16	"Hitavádi"	...	...	Calcutta	.....	20th ditto.
16	"Murshidábád Pratinidhi"	...	...	Berhampore	.....
17	"Navayuga"	...	...	Calcutta	500	18th ditto.
18	"Prakriti"	...	...	Ditto	.....	20th ditto.
19	"Pratikár"	...	...	Berhampore	609	19th ditto.
20	"Prithivi"	...	...	Calcutta	.....
21	"Rangpur Dikprakásh"	...	...	Kakinia, Rangpur	.....	18th ditto.
22	"Sahachar"	...	...	Calcutta	800-1,000	17th ditto.
23	"Sahayogi"	...	...	Barisal	342	
24	"Sakti"	...	...	Dacca	.....
25	"Samáj-o-Sáhitya"	...	...	Garibpore, Nadia	1,000	21st ditto.
26	"Samaya"	...	...	Calcutta	3,000	19th ditto.
27	"Sanjivani"	...	...	Ditto	4,000	20th ditto.
28	"Sansodhini"	...	...	Chittagong	.....	19th ditto.
29	"Sáraswat Patra"	...	...	Dacca	300	20th ditto.
30	"Som Prakásh"	...	...	Calcutta	600	22nd ditto.
31	"Srimanta Sadagar"	...	...	Ditto	.....
32	"Sudhákár"	...	...	Ditto	3,100	19th ditto.
33	"Sulabh Samáchar"	...	...	Ditto	.....
Daily.						
34	"Banga Vidyá Prakáshiká"	...	...	Calcutta	500	20th, 22nd, & 23rd February 1892.
35	"Bengal Exchange Gazette"	...	...	Ditto	.....	23rd and 24th ditto.
36	"Dainik-o-Samáchar Chandriká"	...	...	Ditto	1,000	21st to 25th ditto.
37	"Samvád Prabhákár"	...	...	Ditto	1,500	18th to 20th and 22nd to 35th February 1892.
38	"Samvád Purnachandrodaya"	...	...	Ditto	300	19th, 20th & 22nd to 25th Feb. 1892.
49	"Sulabh Dainik"	...	...	Ditto	.....	23rd and 24th February 1892.
ENGLISH AND BENGALI.						
Weekly.						
40	"Dacca Gazette"	...	...	Dacca	.....	22nd February 1892.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
HINDI.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
41	"Darjeeling Mission ke Másik Samáchár Patrika."	Darjeeling	50	18th February 1892.
42	"Kshatriya Patriká" ...	Patna	250	
<i>Weekly.</i>				
43	"Aryávarta" ...	Calcutta	750	
44	"Behar Bandhu" ...	Bankipore	500	18th ditto.
45	"Bhárat Mitra" ...	Calcutta	1,200	18th ditto.
46	"Champarun Chandrika" ...	Bettiah	350	
47	"Desí Vyápári" ...	Calcutta	.....
48	"Hindi Bangavási" ...	Ditto	.....	22nd ditto.
49	"Sár Sudhánidhi" ...	Ditto	500	
50	"Uchit Baktá" ...	Ditto	4,500	
URDU.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
51	"Al Punch" ...	Bankipore	.....
52	"Anis" ...	Patna	.....
53	"Calcutta Punch" ...	Calcutta	.....
54	"Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide" ...	Ditto	340	19th ditto.
55	"General and Gauharíasfi" ...	Ditto	.....
56	"Mehre Monawar" ...	Muzaffarpur	.....
57	"Raisul-Akhbari-Moorshidabad" ...	Murshidabad	150	
58	"Setare Hind" ...	Arrah	.....
URIYA.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
59	"Asha" ...	Cuttack	165	
60	"Echo" ...	Ditto	.....
61	"Pradíp" ...	Ditto	.....
62	"Samyabadi" ...	Ditto	.....
63	"Taraka and Subhavártá" ...	Ditto	.....
64	"Utkalprána" ...	Mohurbhunj	.....
<i>Weekly.</i>				
65	"Dipaka" ...	Cuttack	.....
66	"Samvad Váhika" ...	Balasore	200	
67	"Uriya and Navasamvád" ...	Ditto	420	
68	"Utkal Dípiká" ...	Cuttack	420	
PAPERS PUBLISHED IN ASSAM.				
BENGALI.				
<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
69	"Paridarshak" ...	Sylhet	480	
70	"Silchar" ...	Silchar	500	
<i>Weekly.</i>				
71	"Srihatta Mihir" ...	Sylhet	332	

I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

The *Bharat Mitra*, of the 18th February, says that they err who suppose that Russia will take more time to cross the Hindu Kush range than she took to enter Central Asia across the Caucasus mountains. It may not, after all, be long before Russia appears at the gates of India. It will be easy for her to occupy Samarcand, and enter Cashmere.

BHARAT MITRA,
Feb. 18th, 1892.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

2. The *Uluberia Darpan*, of the 28th January, says that the salaries of the chowkidars, in the Uluberia thana, are in arrears, in some cases for 8 or 9 months. The chowkidars have made their grievance known to the Deputy Magistrate, but to no purpose. The Deputy Magistrate sometimes orders the punchayet to clear up the arrears, but the order hardly goes beyond the precincts of his office. The Deputy Magistrate is asked to be kind to the poor chowkidars, and to enquire in person why they are kept without their pay.

ULUBERIA DARPAN,
Jan. 28th, 1892.

3. The *Hindu Ranjika*, of the 17th February, has learnt from a reliable source that thefts have become rife in the villages of Nowgong, Singra, Baraigram, and others in the Rajshahye district. The chowkidar appears to have grown negligent in the performance of his duties. Crime also increases in times of scarcity. The District Superintendent of Police ought to look sharp.

HINDU RANJIKA,
Feb. 17th, 1892.

4. The *Bangavasi*, of the 20th February, has learnt from Paschimpara, in the Hooghly district, that there is not at present a single chowkidar in the village, although the chowkidari tax is levied there, and thefts have consequently become rife.

BANGAVASI,
Feb. 20th, 1892.

5. The *Gramvasi*, of the 22nd February, is sorry that the Divisional Commissioner has ordered the abolition, from the month of April next, of the police outpost at Syampur, Mondulghat, in the Howrah district. Even with the outpost among them, the people of the surrounding villages live in constant dread of *gundas*, and its abolition will therefore make their condition very much worse.

GRAMVASI,
Feb. 22nd, 1892.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

6. The *Sanjivani*, of the 20th February, says that a Deputy Magistrate of Tipperah having inflicted a punishment of thirty stripes on a culprit, the Lieutenant-Governor has deprived him of the power of summary trial. His Honour has also stopped the Deputy Magistrate's promotion for a year, and administered to him a sharp reprimand for inflicting this cruel punishment. The Lieutenant-Governor's treatment of the Deputy Magistrate has given satisfaction to the writer.

SANJIVANI,
Feb. 20th, 1892.

7. The same paper says:—It is reported in the press that a certain Joint-Magistrate of a district not far from the metropolis inflicted a punishment of thirty stripes on a head-constable, for the offence of having arrested a drunken soldier who was creating a disturbance on the public road, and having snatched away from his hand a large knife. The head-constable was confined in jail for two days before the corporal punishment was inflicted on him. He lost consciousness after the twentieth stripe, but the stripes still went on, although the Joint-Magistrate was standing by, and ought to have prohibited the infliction of the remaining ten stripes. The Civil Surgeon has examined the wounds of the head-constable, and has said that the wounds will slough. The Lieutenant-Governor, the writer feels sure, will not hesitate to punish this cruel Joint-Magistrate.

SANJIVANI.

(d)—Education.

SAHACHAR,
Feb. 17th, 1892.

The Entrance Examination
scandal.

8. The *Sahachar*, of the 17th February, is sorry that the Calcutta University has not yet become a really useful body. Question papers are stolen almost every other year, and it has become very necessary to enquire why this happens. As regards the theft of the question papers at the last Entrance Examination, the step which the authorities have taken to prevent the nullification of that examination is not at all satisfactory. It has been decided to hold another examination only in the Patna centre; but what if even a single boy in any other circle learnt the questions before the day of the examination from a friend in the Patna circle? How, in that case, will the validity of the examination be maintained, simply by holding a re-examination in the Patna Circle? And what grounds have the authorities to suppose that questions were out before the examination only at Patna and not at any other place? Patna is not very distant from Calcutta, and a letter posted there in the evening reaches Calcutta the next morning. Under these circumstances, the authorities should have held a re-examination of all the candidates. The writer is, of course, aware that such a re-examination would cause much hardship to innocent candidates, and that it is better that thousands of the guilty should escape rather than one innocent man be punished. But he is still of opinion that without a re-examination of all the candidates, real justice will not be done.

NAVATUGA,
Feb. 18th, 1892.

The Entrance Examination
scandal.

9. The *Navayuga*, of the 18th February, accords a qualified approval to the decision of the Syndicate of the Calcutta University to hold a re-examination only at the Patna centre. The arrangement is not satisfactory in as much as it will mean great inconvenience to the boys who will have to come to Patna from the mofussil in order to appear at the re-examination.

SAMAY,
Feb. 19th, 1892.

Drawing in the Entrance Examination.

10. The *Samay*, of the 19th February, approves of Mr. Tawney's proposal relating to drawing in the Entrance Examination. Boys should be taught not only to draw, but also prepare survey maps in English and Bengali. Making survey maps will help drawing as well as enable boys to make their living.

BANGANIVASI,
Feb. 19th, 1892.

The re-examination question.

11. Referring to the decision of the Syndicate of the Calcutta University to hold a re-examination of the Entrance candidates in the Patna centre, the *Banganivasi*, of the 19th February, says that the Syndicate is greatly mistaken in thinking that the Patna candidates alone got the questions before the examination. Many candidates at the Calcutta centre got the mathematics questions, and how does the Syndicate propose to deal by them? And why should they enjoy exemption from re-examination? The writer is not satisfied with the Syndicate's decision of this question.

EDUCATION GAZETTE,
Feb. 19th, 1892.

The Higher Training Association.

12. The *Education Gazette*, of the 19th February, says that the object, of the Higher Training Association is to impart moral and physical training to boys. As regards physical training, the writer approves of the Association's attempt in this direction. But he has not yet been able to realise fully on what line moral instruction will be imparted, and with what result. He agrees with what the *Indian Nation* has said on the subject. Englishmen do not wish that the people of this country should be irreligious, haughty, and wanting in disrespect to those to whom respect is due. But they wish that they should cease to believe in 33 crores of gods, and to obey all the injunctions of the Shastras, and all the rules of their society. Religious preaching by Englishmen can injure the religions of the Indian people, but can create nothing which can take the place of those religions. The only new thing it can bring about is disorder and chaos, and this disorder and chaos Englishmen have introduced into the Indian society. Englishmen have not been able to convert many Hindus to Christianity, but they have upset the faith of a very large number of them in their religion, and in the rules of their own society. And these very Englishmen now want to teach order and obedience to Hindu boys. This cannot be done. Having taught Hindu boys to hate idolatry, how can they again teach them to respect their idolatrous parents? Having taught Hindu boys to use only their own judgment in all things, how can they again take them to task for doing any improper thing? The fact is,

those who will impart moral instruction to Hindu boys will not succeed in the attempt unless they banish from their minds all ideas of social and religious reform. For, the attempt to reform Hindu society in a European style, under the pretext of imparting moral instruction, will be sure to produce most mischievous results, and to hold out a premium to morality of a dangerous type.

13. The *Sanjivani*, of the 20th February, says that the history and the English literature papers at the last Entrance Examination were too difficult for the candidates, so much so that even the teachers who teach the entrance class are unable to answer many of the questions. And the writer has also learnt that the examiners themselves have failed to make out the right answers to the questions. In the history paper Lord Hastings has been called a Viceroy. The Society of unaided colleges and schools has sent a representation to the University authorities, requesting them to transfer the marks allotted to the objectionable questions to the remaining questions. A meeting of the Senate will be held to-day (the 20th February) to discuss the question of re-examination, and it is to be hoped that the members will take this opportunity of expressing their opinion as to the difficult nature of the questions.

Papers set at the last Entrance Examination.

SANJIVANI,
Feb. 20th, 1892.

14. The same paper cannot understand for what special qualification Sir Alfred Croft was induced to appoint Mr. Billing to the high post of Officiating Principal of the Krishnagar College. Mr. Billing is almost a boy, having passed the B. A. Examination only four years ago. He does not appear to have given proof of any special proficiency at the B. A. Examination. He appeared at the last M. A. Examination in philosophy, but was plucked in every branch. And it is this meritorious man whom the Bengal Government has now appointed to the third class of the Subordinate Education Service, and has placed him sixth in that class, over the heads of many officers. Babu Nilkantha Majumdar, M.A., has been placed twelfth, and Baboo Sasibhusan Datta, M.A., twentieth in the same list. Baboo Nilkantha possesses a thorough knowledge of English literature and Baboo Sasibhusan is proficient in both English and philosophy, and many pupils taught by these two gentlemen have successfully passed the M. A. Examination. But now they have been placed far below a man who is not fit even to sit at their feet. It is due to Sir Alfred Croft's partiality that such a scandal has been perpetrated in the Education Department. It will be idle to hope for justice in this department so long as it has at its head a worthless man like Sir Alfred. But how could His Honour, keen-sighted as he is, sanction this jobbery of Sir Alfred's? Sir Charles ought, at any rate, to keep a sharp eye on the doings of that official. The Education Department has got almost choked with refuse which it would be idle to hope to remove without his Honour's earnest efforts.

SANJIVANI.

Mr. Hullward, Professor, Dacca College.

15. The same paper has received a letter to the following effect from Dacca:—

Mr. Hullward, Professor, Dacca College, was one of the guards at the Dacca centre at the last Entrance Examination. On seeing a candidate spit in the room, he ordered him to go out. The candidate accordingly went out to spit, but when he was going to resume his seat, he was told by Mr. Hullward to remain standing for ten minutes. Surely this was great high-handedness on Mr. Hullward's part. Even ten minutes is too precious time to be lost in this way during an examination. A few months ago this same gentleman shoved a student of the College Department for making noise. The punkah-pullers have a hard time of it, when it is Mr. Hullward's turn to lecture. The Lieutenant-Governor and the Director of Public Instruction are anxious to improve the morality of school-boys; but cannot they do anything to improve the character of this Professor? A man so devoid of sense of responsibility as Mr. Hullward ought not to be kept in the responsible post of a Professor. An enquiry ought to be made into the case of the injured candidate.

SANJIVANI.

16. The *Prakriti*, of the 20th February, says that, considering the manner in which the affairs of the Calcutta University are now managed, its motto ought to be not 'the advancement of learning, but the advancement of ignorance.' The University scandals, exposed during the last few years, have diminished people's

PRAKRITI,
Feb. 20th, 1892.

The Calcutta University scandals.

respect for it. And the more people are crying against the University, the more reckless is the conduct of the University authorities becoming.

Every year the questions set at the University Examinations are justly taken exception to. Though the Lieutenant-Governor has clearly expressed his opinion that change of head examiners year after year is very objectionable, no heed has been paid to it. The papers on English at the last University Examination are then referred to, and the expression "memory poetry," "expressed English," in the first paper, are condemned as being bad English. The paper in question contains many other mistakes.

BANGAVASI,
Feb. 20th, 1892.

17. The *Bangavasi*, of the 20th February, says that reports about University Examination scandals have become almost deafening. These scandals are occurring at every

step. This year the Entrance Examination questions were stolen at Patna, and it is said that they were even sold and pasted on the walls of the examination hall before the commencement of the examination. The Patna College authorities communicated the fact to the University authorities, who have therefore resolved to hold a re-examination of the candidates at the Patna centre on the 14th March. But the 14th March is the date of the *Holi*, when great festivities are held in Patna. And the University authorities have scandalised themselves by fixing this date. If the learned University authorities have not the power to put a stop to such scandals, why does the University exist at all?

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Feb. 22nd, 1892.

18. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 22nd February, says that the Syndicate of the Calcutta University fixed the 14th March next as the date for the re-examination

The last Entrance Examination. in the Patna centre. But the 14th March is the day for the celebration of the Hindu festival of *Dolejatra*. This shows that the members of the Syndicate do not know how to look for dates in the almanac. But the 4th April which has been fixed by the Senate as the date for holding the re-examination is also a Hindu festival day, being the day for the celebration of the *Anna Purna* and *Vasanti* Pujas. Reference is then made to the question papers in English, Bengali, and Arabic, which were set at the last Entrance Examination, and the following remarks are made:—These questions were very bad. As regards the Bengali paper, the man who set it does not seem to possess the least knowledge of Bengali. The questions in the other subjects, too, are not free from fault.

HINDI BANGAVASI,
Feb. 22nd, 1892.

19. The *Hindi Bangavasi*, of the 22nd February, cannot understand why the Director of Public Instruction is anxious to make drawing a compulsory subject in the Entrance Examination. Is drawing the only thing wanting to complete the erudition of the Entrance candidates?

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Feb. 23rd, 1892.

20. Referring to Mr. R. C. Dutt's Brief History of India, which has been appointed by the Calcutta University to be a text-book for the Entrance Examination, the *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 23rd February, says that the book contains matter objectionable from the religious standpoint of Hindus, Muhammadans, and Christians, and its language is not faultless. Even the English Editor of the *Englishman* newspaper has taken exception to the book, and has hinted that it ought not to be read by Hindu and Muhammadan boys. Will the present Vice-Chancellor of the Calcutta University, who is said to be a true Hindu, maintain the religion of his forefathers by the appointment of such text-books? The Viceroy himself, as Chancellor of the University, ought to judge whether the book should be read by Hindu and Muhammadan boys. The fact is, the University authorities did not take the trouble of going through the book, and adopted it as a text-book under influence exercised by its author. If the Viceroy does not object to the book, people will say that Government itself intends to strike a blow at the religions of both Hindus and Mussulmans.

(c)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

ULUBERIA DARPAN,
Jan. 28th, 1892.

21. The *Uluberia Darpan*, of the 28th January, is astonished that the members of the Puri Lodging-house Act Committee in Uluberia, in the district of Howrah, have abandoned the idea of purchasing a fire-engine for Uluberia, and are trying to

A fire-engine for Uluberia, in the district of Howrah.

re-excavate a tank at the local bazar. Now, Uluberia is a place full of thatched huts, and a fire-engine is an absolute necessity there; whilst the tank in question is situated at such a distance from the houses in the town that its water cannot be used with advantage in putting down fires. The members of the Committee should, therefore, reconsider the question of the fire-engine.

22. The *Hindu Ranjika*, of the 17th February, says that since his resignation of the post of Chairman of the Nowgong Local Board, in the Rajshahye district, by Babu Sarat Chandra, no Chairman has been appointed to that Board. The members of the Board are all worthy men, and any one of them may be elected to the post. But if the members are unwilling to elect one from their own body, they should elect a local zemindar or the Sub-divisional Officer of Nowgong as their Chairman.

HINDU RANJIKI,
Feb. 17th, 1892.

Supply of the municipal house-rate bill forms.

23. The *Sahachar*, of the 17th February, refers to the recent circular of Government, relating to the supply of the municipal house-rate bill forms, and remarks as follows:—

SAHACHAR,
Feb. 17th, 1892.

This circular was issued last year, and the Chairman of many Municipalities arranged with the Superintendent of Government Printing at Calcutta, for the supply of house-rate bill forms. The Superintendent sent the orders for the supply of these forms to the proprietors of the Caledonian Press at Sulkea. But the supply by that press was so irregular that, after the first six months of the year, the municipalities concerned got their forms printed at private presses in Calcutta and elsewhere at a considerably cheaper rate. While the private presses charge Rs. 3½ for printing 1,000 forms, the Caledonian Press charges Rs. 6 for the same work. Thus the enforcement of the above circular will mean considerable loss to the municipalities. The house-rate bill forms can be printed as well at any private press as at the Caledonian Press. Where is, then, the necessity of getting them printed at the latter press at such a high rate? It cannot be said that the printing of these forms at the Caledonian Press, under the auspices of Government, will make easy the work of detecting fraud and irregularity in connection with municipal accounts, for, as those accounts are frequently audited by Government auditors, no confusion or irregularity is likely to occur in them. Most of the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Municipalities are good and honest men, and Government is not justified in distrusting them. Distrusting them will be fatal to the cause of Local Self-government. The circular may be interpreted by people as an act of favoritism on the part of Government. It is hoped that, on reconsideration, Government will withdraw it.

24. Referring to the Government notification published in the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 17th February last, relating to the printing of Municipal house rate bill forms, the *Bangavasi*, of the 20th February, fails to see why the Municipalities should be deprived of their liberty to have those forms printed wherever they like. This trading spirit on the part of Government cannot be approved or admired. It can hardly be believed that the notification has been published with the knowledge of the Lieutenant-Governor.

BANGAVASI,
Feb. 20th, 1892.

(f)—Questions affecting the land.

25. A correspondent of the *Navayuga*, of the 18th February, says that Babu Hari Charan Chakravarti, zemindar, residing at Manikkunda, in the district of Midnapore, is oppressing his ryots very much. His father, grandfather, &c., used to take rent from their ryots in 4 kists, but Hari Charn Babu contemplates taking it in 12 kists. With this object in view, he refused to take rent from the ryots, and brought suits against them in the Jehanabad Court for arrears of rent. Defeated there, he appealed to the District Court, which also decided against him. Thus worsted, he is now harassing his ryots in a variety of ways.

NAVAYUGA,
Feb. 18th, 1892.

(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.

26. The *Bangavasi*, of the 20th February, says that the village roads of Paschimpara within the jurisdiction of the Manikundu thana, in the Hooghly district, are in a bad

BANGAVASI,
Jan. 20th, 1892.

condition, and have become almost impassable. The carriage and cart traffic has greatly damaged the roads, so that they have become full of ruts, which will be full of water in the rainy season, and prove exceedingly dangerous to passengers. The roads ought to be metalled, and the matter has been represented to the Municipal authorities.

(h)—General.

ULUBERIA DARPAN,
Feb. 12th, 1892.

27. The *Uluberia Darpan*, of the 12th February, says that in consequence of the artillery practice at the Falta Fort, the people of some 11 or 12 villages have had to leave their homes and go elsewhere. Those who had to remove sick relations or females approaching confinement suffered the greatest inconvenience. Many women were delivered on the way. The cost of removal was also very great. Would it not, therefore, be better to hold the artillery practice at an interval of two or three years? But it is determined to hold it every year. Government should generously pay the cost which people incur in removing from and coming back to their villages, in the same way as it compensates people for the loss which is done to them by means of cannon-balls.

NAVAYUGA,
Feb. 18th, 1892.

28. The *Navayuga*, of the 18th February, cannot say for certain, whether or not the English Raj will act according to the revised Famine Code. The probability is that it will not, for Government is seldom seen to act according to the laws which it frames. Again, to judge from the procedure which Government has hitherto adopted in dealing with famine, the new Famine Code does not seem likely to be followed in practice. This is how Government acts in times of famine:—Famine breaks out in a district; hundreds of people die daily; people live on grass, herbs, leaves of trees, &c.; wails of suffering are heard from all sides and an agitation is kept up on the subject in the newspapers. At last the matter reaches the ear of Government, and the Lieutenant-Governor requests the Divisional Commissioner to institute an enquiry into the matter. The Commissioner, in his turn, asks the Magistrate to enquire and report. The Magistrate visits the places most affected by famine, and then reports with an easy conscience, that there is no real famine, and that only the prices of food-grains have slightly increased for want of rain. This report of the Magistrate reaches the Lieutenant-Governor in due time, and Government comes to disbelieve the story of the press regarding the famine. In the meantime, deaths from scarcity increase in number, and populous villages begin to be converted into *smasans* (burning-grounds), and then Government is roused from its slumber, and a few thousand rupees are sanctioned for relief work. This is how Government deals with famine in this country. It is for this reason that the writer says that this revision of the Famine Code will be of no practical advantage in times of famine and scarcity. If the English Raj really had the desire to give effect to the laws it frames, it would not have met the cost of the Afghan war from the proceeds of the Famine Fund, nor would that fund itself have nearly vanished. But if the civilised British Government does nothing in this crisis, the people of the country themselves ought not to remain indifferent. There are clear indications that India will be visited by a terrible famine this year, and people should take timely precautionary measures. The zemindars can do much by undertaking the construction of new roads and the excavation of tanks, wells, &c. Again, as famine has now become an everyday occurrence, people should establish famine funds at different centres, each centre consisting of a number of villages, and well-to-do people should contribute money towards that object.

SAMAY,
Feb. 19th, 1892.

29. The *Samay*, of the 19th February, refers to the transliteration list recently published in the *Calcutta Gazette*, and observes as follows:—In the list of historical names, the old spelling has been preserved. But as regards many of those names, the use of the correct spelling would have resulted in no error or mispronunciation. The Postal Department uses the correct spelling. What harm, for instance, can there be in spelling Alipore as Alipur, Bally as Bali, Bankipore as Bankipur, Ballygunge as Baliganja, Darjeeling as Darjiling? There are many errors in the second list. Jhenidah should be Jhinadaha; Ajai should be Ajaya; Dakhin should be Dakshin. The list of technical names is not

also free from errors. Cooly should be spelt kuli, cutcherry kachari, dacoit dakoit, and pukka paka. The lists should have been thoroughly revised.

30. The *Dacca Prakash*, of the 21st February, has the following :—

DACCA PRAKASH,
Feb. 21st, 1892.

The proposal to abolish the post of Executive Engineer of Dacca.

Sir Charles Elliott is no doubt a first rate man of business. But he sometimes commits mistakes through haste in the disposal of business. His Honour, however, never does anything which can show that he is free from partiality to his own countrymen. His system of retrenchment is faulty. He casts keen glances on the salaries of poor clerks and on the pens and pencils used in the offices, but the fat salaries of European officials escape his notice. He proposes to abolish the post of Executive Engineer of Dacca, and has, therefore, asked the Dacca District Board to say whether they would be able to do that officer's work. Now, in all circles in which there is a European Engineer, there is a body of assistant engineers, numbering 3 or 4 men, to assist him. But the Executive Engineer of Dacca, whose post is proposed to be abolished, is a native gentleman, Babu Prasanna Kumar Daniyari, who does, unassisted, the work of six districts. His predecessors in the office were Europeans, and had an assistant each to help them. If Prasanna Babu had been a European, his post would not have been singled out for abolition, and he would probably have got an assistant to help him. Again, the abolition of the post will not only not result in any saving, but will on the contrary increase expenditure. At present the establishment of the Executive Engineer costs Rs. 1,274 per month. A sixth part of this sum, namely, Rs. 212, therefore represents the monthly cost for each of the six districts under the charge of the Engineer. Now, the District Board, which is being consulted, has asked for an increase of the establishment of its own Engineer for the additional duties which will be thrown upon him, the additional establishment asked for meaning an additional expenditure of Rs. 400 per month. If Government cuts this down to Rs. 200, the saving effected will amount only to Rs. 12 in each of the six districts concerned. But as the District Board Engineers, who will henceforward take the place of the Executive Engineer of Dacca, are not well versed in building work, that work will suffer. And as they will have to do so much additional work, both road work and building work will be badly done. There are at present three Engineers for three distinct kinds of work, and the mistakes committed by one are corrected by the other two. So, the absence of any one of them will remove a safeguard against error. Many think that this act of the Lieutenant-Governor is only a dodge resorted to with a view of removing the three native engineers and to replace them by Europeans. When after a few years it will be seen that the work of the Executive Engineer has not been properly done by the District Board Engineer, Government will appoint a European in his place. And so, in the Dacca Division, six Europeans will one day be appointed in place of one Bengali.

III.—LEGISLATIVE.

31. The *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 16th February, has the following in connection with the new Municipal Bill :—

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
Feb. 16th, 1892.

The new Municipal Bill.

Election being the basis of self-government, there was a time when people were most eager to obtain the elective right. But now that they have obtained it, they see what a hollow, unsubstantial thing it is. The elective system has been in force in Burdwan for a long time, but it has not fulfilled the expectations that were formed of it. This much, at any rate, is certain, that better men have not been obtained by election. It is very necessary, therefore, to reform the elective system. And reform should be effected by raising the pecuniary qualification of voters from the payment of Re. 1-8 to Rs. 9 annually in the shape of municipal rates. This will lead to an increase of the number of men of sense and intelligence in the rank of voters, and thereby facilitate the return of better men as Commissioners. At present the pecuniary qualification of the voters being very low, the majority of them are found to be ignorant men, who cannot resist the pressure which is brought on them by the candidates for Commissionerships. Additional qualifications, such as character, knowledge, intelligence, social position, &c., should be required for the Commissionership. This is necessary in order to exclude the low castes from the Commissionerships. Say what the advocates

of social equality may, the distinctions of caste, high birth, learning, &c., will never disappear from Indian society, and a Deputy Magistrate will never consent to exercise authority as a Municipal Commissioner sitting on the same bench with a chaprasi. If, therefore, some such measure as the one proposed is not taken to exclude men of low caste and low social position from the Commissionerships, good men will gradually retire from the Municipalities. The Magistrates should, therefore, be asked to prepare a list of men who are, in their opinion, eligible for Commissionerships, and no one should be elected a Commissioner whose name has not been entered in that list. In preparing the list, the Magistrate should be assisted by two high officials and two of the principal residents of the town for which it is made. *Daladali* now often prevails among the Commissioners, and it is very necessary to check it. Official Chairmen should be appointed in places where *daladali* runs high. And if that fails to check it, the power of electing new Commissioners should be given to the Magistrate. The new Bill should empower the Commissioners to set apart places for the residence of prostitutes. It is not proper to allow them to quarter themselves anywhere and everywhere.

In assessing the house-rate, the annual rental of a house should be regarded as its annual value and the tax assessed upon it, and not on the cost of its construction.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

CHARUVARTA,
Feb. 15th, 1892.

32. The *Charuvarta*, of the 15th February, has received a copy of the The Administration Report of Tipperah Administration Report for 1890-91, which is the first Administration Report published in that State, and is pleased with its contents. The writer says that the public has been at length allowed a glimpse into the internal affairs of the Tipperah State, and it is clear that attempts are being made to improve its condition. The business of the State was heretofore carried on by men who had to render no account to the public, and who were always quarrelling among themselves. But the present régime has put an end to that state of things. The Prime Minister is to be thanked for this innovation, and it is hoped that the practice will be continued in future years.

SANJIVANI,
Feb. 20th, 1892.

33. A correspondent, signing himself A. U. Ahammad, writes to the *Sanjivani*, of the 20th February, as follows:—
Scurcity and distress in Kuch Behar.

The people of Kuch Behar have begun to suffer from scarcity, there having been no sowing at all this year. Paddy is selling at 22 seers per rupee (1 seer = 60 tolas). The authorities take little notice of the matter, being occupied with preparations for the Viceroy's reception, while the people whose money is being thus spent are themselves starving. Something over eighty thousand rupees will be spent on the occasion of the Viceregal visit, but not a single pice has yet been spent in relieving the distress of the people. That this account is not in the least exaggerated will appear from any enquiry, however small. About 75 per cent. of the people of each village are already living on boiled potatoes and pumpkins. It is enough to draw tears to one's eyes to see poor families, after two or three days' fast, selling off even their plough-cattle. If the authorities take the trouble of making an independent enquiry, and not an enquiry through the police, they will see scarcity prevailing in the following places:—Chilki's hât, Kasaldanga, Kursamar, Malbari, Bhair thana, Khengti, Gadaikhora, Sibpur, Sitalkhuchi, Jaydwar, Phuleswari, Pettalepra, Atiabari, Nagar Lalbazar, Baramasiya, Lalbazar, Adabari, Sosammari, Paharganj, Sitai, and Chatra.

The wooden bridges on the roads are in a miserable condition, and if not repaired will cause the greatest inconvenience to wayfarers in the rainy season.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Feb. 23rd, 1892.

34. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 23rd February, says that Official report of scarcity in a few days ago it was reported on the part of Bengal. Government that the Rajshahye Division would not be affected by the prevailing scarcity. The writer contradicted the statement at the time it was made. But Sir Edward Buck himself has now admitted his error and reported that scarcity has begun to be felt in parts of the Rajshahye.

Bogra, Pabna, and Rangpur districts, that is to say in certain parts of the Rajshahye Division. There can be little doubt that what has been reported as "scarcity in certain parts" will become "universal scarcity" in the next report. It has also been stated that the little scarcity which has appeared in the Rajshahye Division will be removed by local relief. But if by local relief is meant relief afforded by the District Boards, then the authorities should know for certain that local relief will not adequately cope with the situation. Rice is selling at a very high price in the Jalpaigoori and Dinajpore districts also. There is therefore hardly a district of the Rajshahi Division in which there is not scarcity. The report from the Patna Division, too, is very alarming, and one can hardly see the reason of Sir Edward Buck's confident attitude in regard to that division. The authorities ought to start relief operations in this division at once, and not wait till the month of April, as recommended by Sir Edward. The Patna raiyats have been supposed in the report to have a good stock of grains, but the writer fails to see the reason of this supposition in the face of the acknowledged fact that the raiyats never nowadays keep a stock of grains as they used to do in past times. Hopeful pictures in the official reports are very alarming, for the physician who attempts to conceal his patient's disorder is not a physician, but an emissary of Pluto himself.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

35. The *Uluberia Darpan*, of the 28th January, appears in black, and expresses sorrow for the death of Prince Albert Victor. ULUBERIA DARPAN,
Jan. 28th, 1892.
36. The *Uluberia Darpan*, of the 12th February, publishes the official Bengali translation of the letter written by Her Imperial Majesty, the Queen, in reply to the expressions of condolence received by her on the occasion of Prince Albert Victor's death. ULUBERIA DARPAN,
Feb. 12th, 1892.
37. The same paper says that the proposal to require all country boats to be supplied with two life-buoys of the pattern invented by Mr. Driscoll will, if given effect to, prove a great hardship to native boatmen. European competition has ruined their trade, and as their income is very small, they will not be able to spend Rs. 30 for two buoys. And the inevitable consequence of an enforcement of the proposal will be to put an end to the country boat traffic. Only owners of ships, steamers, &c., should be required to conform to the proposal. ULUBERIA DARPAN.
38. The *Charuvaria*, of the 15th February, publishes the official Bengali translation of the Queen's letter of acknowledgment of condolence, as requested by the Under-Secretary to the Government of Bengal. CHARUVARTA,
Feb. 15th, 1892.
39. The *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 16th February, publishes at the request of Government the official Bengali translation of the letter which Her Imperial Majesty the Queen has written in reply to the expressions of condolence received by her on the occasion of Prince Albert Victor's death. BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
Feb. 16th, 1892.
40. The *Hindu Ranjika*, of the 17th February, publishes the official Bengali translation of the Queen's letter of acknowledgment of the condolence expressed by Her Majesty's subjects on the death of Prince Albert Victor. HINDU RANJIKI,
Feb. 17th, 1892.
41. The *Sahachar*, of the 17th February, publishes with a grateful heart the official translation of the letter written by Her Imperial Majesty the Queen in reply to the expressions of condolence received by Her on the occasion of Prince Albert Victor's death. SAHACHAR,
Feb. 17th, 1892.
42. The *Navayuga*, of the 18th February, publishes, at the request of Government, the official Bengali translation of the Queen's letter acknowledging the expressions of

NAVAYUGA,
Feb. 18th, 1892.

43. It seems to the same paper that Lord William Beresford has taken a permanent lease of the office of Military Secretary to the Viceroy. He held the office during the Viceroyalties of Lord Ripon and Lord Dufferin, and he still holds it. It is rumoured that the present Viceroy has written to the authorities in England recommending his continuance in the office for a further period. Why so much favour to him? Is he a man of so much talent that India cannot do without him? He is a favourite with the female members of the Viceroy's household, and that is probably the reason why so much favour is shown to him.

NAVAYUGA.

44. A correspondent of the same paper says that the people of Dasghara near Hooghly are suffering terribly from scarcity of water. The water of the two large tanks, Metepukur and Barapukur, which used to supply the villagers with drinking water, has become unfit for drinking purposes, and the village people are falling ill by using it. The authorities should look to the matter.

RUNGPORE
DIKPRAKASH
Feb. 18th, 1892.

45. The *Rungpore Dikprakash*, of the 18th February, publishes the official Bengali translation of the Queen's letter sent to it by the Bengal Government.

BANGANIVASI,
Feb. 19th, 1892.

46. The *Banganivasi*, of the 19th February, regrets that there was no mention of India in the Queen's speech at the re-opening of Parliament. The Indians would have felt highly flattered if a little sympathy had been expressed with the miseries of the famine-stricken people in this country.

BANGANIVASI.

47. The same paper says that Her Majesty the Queen published a letter in English, acknowledging the condolence expressed throughout the British dominions on the death of Prince Albert Victor. A Bengali translation of it has been sent to the vernacular press by her command. It is respectfully published.

PRATIKAR,
Feb. 19th, 1892.

48. The *Pratikar*, of the 19th February, says that the Indians have been deeply grieved at the death of Prince Albert Victor. And they have done their duty as loyal subjects of Her Majesty by expressing sympathy with the Royal family and giving them consolation in their bereavement. The Queen has written an affectionate letter to her Indian subjects acknowledging their expressions of condolence. A Bengali translation of this letter has been received from the Bengal Government, and is published. This is no small favour of Her Majesty's to Her Indian subjects.

SANSODHINI,
Feb. 19th, 1892.

49. The *Sansodhini*, of the 19th February, publishes the official Bengali translation of the letter which Her Imperial Majesty has written in reply to the expressions of condolence received by her on the occasion of Prince Albert Victor's death.

BANGAVASI,
Feb. 20th, 1892.

50. The *Bangavasi*, of the 20th February, has the following:—

The Lady Roberts Fund.
Sir Frederick Roberts, the hero of Cabul, is now Lord Roberts, and his wife has consequently become Lady Roberts. Her husband's life has been spent and is being spent in military service, and his fame will rest on his labours as a soldier. But it is very necessary that Lady Roberts, too, should do something to perpetuate her own name. And she is not unmindful of this. Following the example of the Marchioness of Dufferin, who has collected, and is still collecting, large sums of money for the training of female doctors and for the establishment of female hospitals, Lady Roberts has opened a subscription list for the construction of hospitals at hill stations for the benefit of those sick-nurses who tend the wounded on the battle-field or in military hospitals. The Maharaja of Bettiah has already subscribed Rs. 5,000 towards this scheme of Lady Roberts, and other Maharajas will no doubt follow suit. No Raja or rich man demurred to subscribe to the Dufferin Fund. Lady Dufferin was the wife of a Viceroy, and Lady Roberts is the wife of a Commander-in-chief, and both are adepts in the art of winning fame. Why, then, should their names be not perpetuated? No great

man's wife in India could say that her name was not perpetuated for want of money. The Indians never grudge money for these purposes.

51. The *Sanjivani*, of the 20th February, says that the Maharani of Cooch Behar is seriously ill, and is under the treatment of Dr. Mahendra Lal Sircar and Dr. D. N. Ray. Up to the present there has been no improvement in her condition. It is reported in certain newspapers that Her Highness has completely come round. But the *Unity and Minister* says that far from attaining complete recovery, Her Highness has not yet been pronounced out of danger by her medical advisers. Her critical condition has, in fact, alarmed her relatives and acquaintances. It is, therefore, the duty of the Maharaja not to leave her bedside for a moment at the present time. It is certain that if Lord Lansdowne had known of the critical condition of the Maharani, he would on no account have consented to go to Cooch Behar for sport. It is not to be believed that a man like his Lordship, possessed of a feeling heart as he is, can consent to go on a pleasure excursion to a State whose queen is lying in a dangerous condition. If for no other reason, at least in consideration of the Maharani's illness, the Viceroy should stop his visit to Cooch Behar.

SANJIVANI,
Feb. 20th, 1892.

The last anniversary of the
Lady Dufferin Fund.

52. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 21st February, has the following:—

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Feb. 21st, 1892.

Lady Dufferin's motive in starting her fund was certainly good. But it is not admitted by everybody that good motives are always connected with good results. Many far-sighted men think that Lady Dufferin's scheme will produce evil in many instances. And the writer has said again and again that, in a matter of life and death, in a matter, that is, in which the smallest mistake may prove fatal to the life of a patient, reliance ought not to be placed on any ordinary female doctor, simply because the modesty of the female patient will be shocked by her being treated by a male doctor. And it may be safely asserted that no female doctor, trained up by the Lady Dufferin fund, will ever equal a good male doctor. Little good, can, therefore, be expected of the movement.

Large sums of money have been received in the fund, and zenana hospitals have been established in several places throughout India, and women are going to those hospitals. But the writer has not yet heard of any serious or difficult cases having been cured there, and he is unable to entertain the hope that such cases will ever be cured there. Even old and experienced doctors feel diffident about the success of the Lady Dufferin movement.

It would not be proper to protest against the making of contributions to the fund, seeing that the governors of the country themselves are trying their best to increase it. But the authorities ought to be careful how they collect subscriptions, when the country is not in a prosperous condition—nay, when famine stares it in the face all the year round.

As for giving medical training to women, the writer must point out that school education for females has nowhere been commanded or advised by the Shastras. Neither the Viceroy, nor the Lieutenant-Governor, nor any other Government officer should, therefore, advise Hindus to send their daughters to medical schools or colleges. A Bengali translation of the speech delivered by Sir Charles Elliott at the last anniversary of the Lady Dufferin Fund has been received by this paper. But the writer is not willing to criticise it sharply, or to criticise it at all. But the writer, nevertheless, considers it his duty to express his opinion in regard to the fund, and he has therefore said a few words about it. The readers of this paper are well aware that it is not a supporter of the movement. The writer would fain be of the same opinion with the authorities in all matters, and he considers it his misfortune that he cannot do so always.

53. The *Gramvasi*, of the 22nd February, says that it published, in a previous issue, its own translation of the letter which Her Imperial Majesty has written in reply to the expressions of condolence received on the occasion of Prince Albert Victor's death, thereby proving herself a possessor of the godly virtues befitting a sovereign. By causing the letter to be translated into the Indian vernaculars, Her Majesty has given additional proof of her nobleness. The official Bengali translation of the letter is published at the request of Government.

GRAMVASI,
Feb. 22nd, 1892.

HINDI BANGAVASI,
Feb. 22nd, 1892.

54. The *Hindi Bangavasi*, of the 22nd February, says that it is contemplated to induce poor Englishmen in India to migrate to Australia. The writer has nothing to say regarding the scheme except this, that India's money should not be spent in its execution.

HINDI BANGAVASI.

55. The same paper says that it would be very unbecoming on the part of the Viceroy to visit Cooch Behar on a pleasure trip, at a time when the Maharani of that State is lying seriously ill.

The Viceroy's visit to Cooch Behar.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,
Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 27th February 1892.